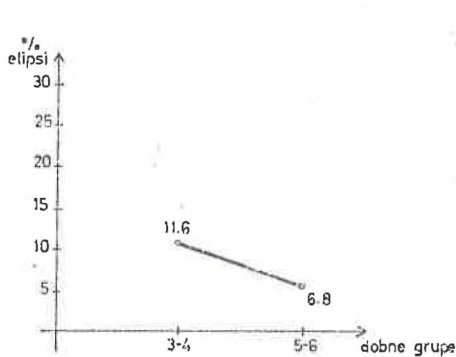


denost vršilaca radnje i objekata radnje u prethodnom kontekstu, tj. da li se pojavio u prethodnoj sekvenci filma. Nadalje, sljedeći faktor koji nas je interesirao je stupanj živosti vršilaca radnje i objekata radnje, tj. da li je to bio neživi predmet, životinja ili ljudsko biće. Na kraju, interesiralo nas je da li je potencijalni rečenični element vršilac radnje ili je objekt radnje? Mi smo postavili hipotezu da će među mlađom djecom biti više elipsa nego među starijom djecom. To je u skladu s Piagetovom karakterizacijom govora mlađe djece kao »egocentričnog« i »nekomunikativnog« govora. Mlađa djeca često nisu svjesna perspektive slušalaca, prema tomu često izostavljaju elemente koji su možda potrebni za razumijevanje rečenice. S druge strane, razvojem djece javlja se trend prema većoj svjesnosti za potrebe slušalaca. Mnoga djeca u jednom periodu razvoja dasljedno uključuju u rečenice informacije koje nisu potrebne za efikasnu komunikaciju.² Iako nas je zanimala razlika između dva dječja doba u odnosu na općenitu frekvenciju elipsa, mnogo važniji cilj našeg istraživanja bio je da konstruiramo prototip eliptiranog elementa za svaku dječju dob. Drugim riječima, u okviru faktora koje smo istraživali zanimalo nas je kakav rečenični oblik ima najveće šanse da bude eliptiran?

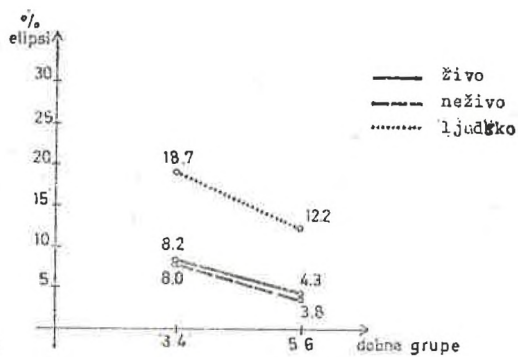
S obzirom na rijetkost istraživanja koja se bave elipsama u dječjem govoru, nismo mogli postaviti specifične hipoteze u vezi razlika u kriterijima koje upotrebljavaju djeca različite dobi pri eliptiranju. Međutim, na osnovi funkcionalnih zahtjeva na jeziku u svrhu efikasne komunikacije, mogli smo postaviti nekoliko općih hipoteza za dvije grupe ispitanika. 1) Što se tiče perceptivne uvedenosti čini se logičnim da nešto što se pojavilo u prethodnom kontekstu ne mora uvijek biti spomenuto da bi slušalac razumio njegovu ulogu u rečenici. Prema tomu, mi smo očekivali više elipsa kod perceptivno uvedenih elemenata. 2) U hrvatskom jeziku glagoli daju više informacija o subjektima rečenice (rod, lice i množina) nego o objektima u rečenici. S obzirom da oni koji govore »subjektiviziraju« vršioce radnje češće nego objekte radnje, postavili smo hipotezu da postoji više elipsi kod vršilaca radnji u rečenici nego što ima elipsi kod objekata radnji u rečenici. Kod ljudskih bića i životinja postoji veća vjerojatnost da budu vršioци radnje u svakodnevnom životu, nego što je to mogućnost neživih predmeta. Prema tomu, neživi vršilac se može smatrati neuobičajenim i u mnogim slučajevima čini se potrebnim da se spomene, nego što bi to bio slučaj da je vršilac radnje ljudsko biće ili životinja.³ Dakle, mi smo postavili hipotezu da će biti više elipsi kod ljudskih i životinjskih entiteta u slučaju kad su vršioци radnje, nego što je to slučaj kad su objekti radnje.

² Prema E. Lennenberg, »The neurology of language«, *Daedalus*, 102, 115—133, 1973.

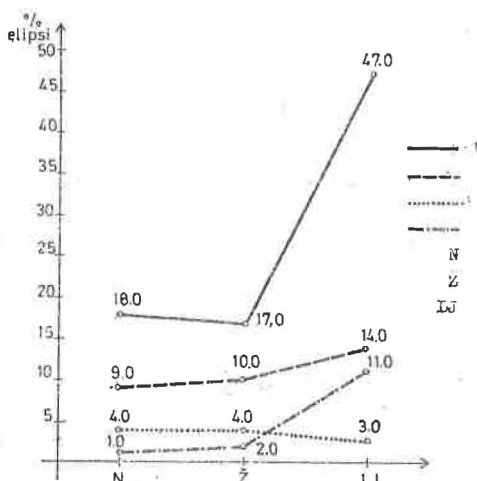
³ Prema E. Weigle, M. Bierwisch, »Neuropsychology and linguistics: Topics of Common Research«, *Foundations of language*, 6, 1—18, 1970.



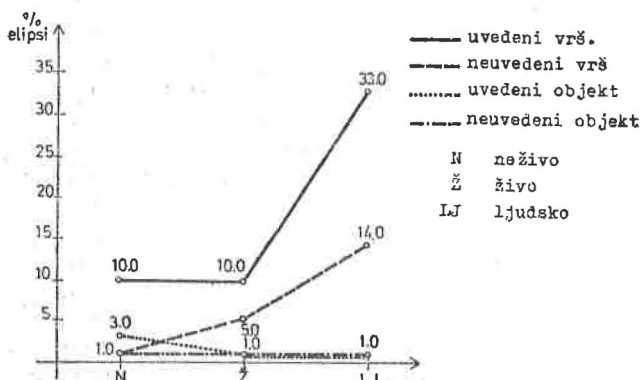
Sl. 1. Grafički prikaz upotrebe elipsi u funkciji dobi



Sl. 2. Grafički prikaz upotrebe elipsi u funkciji dobi i stupnja živosti



Sl. 3. Grafički prikaz upotrebe elipsi u funkciji uvedenosti (prisutnosti) i živosti vršioca rad. i objekta



Sl. 4. Grafički prikaz upotrebe elipsi u funkciji uvedenosti (prisutnosti) i živosti vršioca rad. i objekta

Ivo Mimica: SOME FACTORS INFLUENCING ELLIPSIS IN THE SPEECH
OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

S u m m a r y

Two principal schools are current in evolutionary psycholinguistics, the functional and the transformational. The transformationalists (following the theories of *Chomsky*) explain the forms of children's speech and the evolution of linguistic categories in terms of in-born physiological substrata, while the functionalists talk about the orientation of the substratum exclusively towards grammatical elaboration. Three factors were considered to influence the appearance of ellipsis in the sentence (in addition to chronological age), viz.: whether the agents and the objects were introduced perceptively in the preceding context, whether the agents and objects were animate, and, finally, whether the sentence element was agent or object. A hypothesis arose from all this that younger children would use ellipsis more frequently than older children of pre-school age. This hypothesis is in conformity with *Piaget's* characterization of the speech of »younger« and »older« children. The ultimate aim of the investigation was to construct the ideal prototype of the ellipted element with different ages of pre-school children. In other words: to find which sentence element shows greatest probability of ellipsis. Two hypotheses were put forward: (1) that ellipsis would appear more frequently if the elements were introduced perceptively, (2) that ellipsis would be more frequent with agents than objects of action. Twenty subjects were tested in the course of the experiment, ten of them were between 3 and 4 ($M = 3.5$) and ten were between 5 and 6 ($M = 5.5$). The analysis of the variance revealed a significant effect of age, i. e. greater frequency of ellipsis with the younger group. Perceptive introduction had also an important effect, and the same applies to the relation between the agent and the object of the action. The probability of ellipsis is greater with the agent of the action as well as with elements that were introduced perceptively. The effect of animateness is also significant and nouns referring to people and animals were ellipted more often than nouns referring to inanimate things. *The most important result of the experiment is as follows: the ideal prototype of the ellipted element is the human agent that has been introduced perceptively.* With other combinations of factors the probability of ellipsis is much smaller. This is, then, in conformity with the functional theory which asserts that the form of language and the development of child's speech could be explained in terms of, and within the framework of, functional and practical requirements of the communication system.